

# FloodSAFE and the California Water Plan

## What is changing?

For the first time, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is initiating an effort to identify and compile on-going flood management and emergency response programs, future needs, and opportunities for improvement statewide.

To promote more comprehensive planning, the State will incorporate flood management planning into Water Plan Update 2009.

This is being done in conjunction with FloodSAFE California, a strategic initiative that focuses on improving flood protection and public safety.

## How will this affect the flood and water managers?

Planners and managers will be asked to consider the full water system cycle in making flood and water management decisions. The change will also encourage integrated state and local planning and leveraging of funds and resources to deliver multi-objective management outcomes.

## How will the integration be done? What will the actual planning documents look like?

While the goals are very clear, the specifics of integrating plans are still being discussed. DWR is meeting with key stakeholders during fall 2007 to learn what types of documents and information would be most useful to those implementing these changes. This input will be considered in developing the final approach.

## What else is changing?

According to DWR Director Lester Snow, "The way we manage California's water resources is changing. We need to consider a broader range of resource management issues, competing water demands, new approaches to water supply reliability, and new ways of financing. Local agencies

and governments are beginning to work together to develop regional water plans that are more integrated, more inclusive, and more cost effective."

The Governor's Strategic Growth Plan encourages regional planning and changes the way California develops and funds water projects throughout the state.

Integrated regional planning connects groundwater and surface water management, protection of watersheds and water quality, environmental stewardship, and public safety. By working together, local agencies, governments, tribes, and organizations are better able to serve consumers more efficiently and effectively.

Regional grants encourage local agencies, governments, tribes, and organizations to join forces and pool resources, personnel, and experience to reach their shared goals.

## How do stakeholders provide input?

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input during organized sessions and through email and other written comments. Our goal is to develop a successful, useful process for all those engaged in the planning process.



## Why is this important?



To make wise use of public resources, create sustainable options, and ensure the best outcomes for California, it is critical to plan comprehensively.

While recent bond issues are helping with infrastructure improvements, more comprehensive planning is vital to ensure California has reliable water supplies and is able to cope with the effects of climate change on water supply and flood protection.

Climate models suggest a 25% reduction in snowpack by 2050. Warmer weather would ultimately mean more flooding in the winter, and less runoff from snow for water supply during the spring. This means even more planning is needed for conservation measures, managing ecosystem impacts, and creating options for storage and conveyance.

The change in approach will also pay big dividends for flood managers. The multi-objective management approach will create access to a variety of technical resources and new funding streams.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## Flood Management, Water Supply, and Integrated Regional Water Management

Last year, California initiated the first phase of a comprehensive Strategic Growth Plan to address California's critical infrastructure needs over the next 20 years. The 2006 bond package included water and flood management measures in Propositions 1E and 84. These measures provided \$4.9 billion for flood management and approximately \$1 billion for integrated regional water management including wastewater recycling, groundwater storage, conservation, and other water management actions.

Three initial policy documents outlined the issues and strategies needed to ensure California's water future:

- *California Water Plan Update (2005)*, a strategic plan for meeting future water demands, recommended two initiatives to ensure reliable water supplies: integrated regional water management and improved water management systems.
- *Flood Warnings: Responding to California's Flood Crisis (2005)* called for flood management improvements and reforms to reduce the potential for such disasters in California.
- *Progress on Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources (2006)* provided the first detailed analysis of climate change effects on water and flood management.

To help put policy recommendations into action, the Department of Water Resources has launched **FloodSAFE** and moved forward with Water Plan Update 2005 recommendations for **integrated regional water management and improved water management systems**.

**By incorporating integrated flood management into Water Plan Update 2009, California will improve its resource planning.**

## FloodSAFE and the California Water Plan

The State of California is carrying out a strategic initiative, **FloodSAFE California**, to improve flood protection and public safety.

At the same time, the State is developing **Water Plan Update 2009**. Flood and water managers often work with overlapping resources, shared infrastructure, and compatible planning considerations.



To promote more comprehensive resource planning, the State will incorporate flood management considerations into Water Plan Update 2009 and the Integrated Regional Water Management planning process.



**For more information, please visit:**

<http://www.floodsafe.water.ca.gov>

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov>

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